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ORIENTAL FLOWERING CHERRIES

THE Oriental flowering cherries, when in bloom, present such a picture of beauty to the eye that there is frequently a feeling of disappointment when it is found that these flowers are often without fragrance.

The question may then be asked, which, if any, of these cherries have attractive fragrance, and if the quality of fragrance is desired, can a selection be made that will embody this quality as well as being otherwise satisfactory? To help answer this question, the following compilation has been made, based chiefly on the description of these cherries in the late Dr. Wilson's book "The Cherries of Japan", and in "The Oriental Flowering Cherries" by Paul Russell of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The critical comments, where they appear, are Dr. Wilson's, than whom there could hardly be a more competent or experienced observer.

FLOWERS PREDOMINANTLY WHITE.

Oshima Cherry (*Prunus Lannesiana f. albida*). A small flowered wild mountain type, usually short-lived. Flowers single, white, and only *faintly* fragrant.

Habutai. This is listed in some Japanese catalogues as having large white flowers with a silky sheen as being *very* fragrant. Wilson's comment, however, is that "it has little horticultural value".

Gozanoma-nioi. (Another name for this is Ozu-mako). Flowers single, white, and *very* fragrant.

Taki-nioi. (In Japanese this name means "Fragrant Cascade"). Flowers single, white, and *very* fragrant.

Washino-o. (This name is also spelled as Wasinowo). Flowers single, white, *fragrant*.

Mina-kami. Flowers single, or nearly so, white, *very* fragrant.

Sumizome. Flowers single, or nearly so, white flushed with pink, very large. *Fragrant*. Wilson's comment is that it is "one of the most beautiful of all Japanese cherries".

Hosokawa. Flowers single, or semi-double (some Japanese catalogues list this as having semi-double to double flowers and as being *very* fragrant). Pure white, fragrant. Wilson's comment is that "it is a pleasing form".

Jo-nioi. (This name in Japanese means "Supreme Fragrance"). Flowers single, or semi-double, of remarkable pure whiteness. *Very* fragrant. Wilson's comment is "a lovely plant, the *most fragrant of all* the forms".

Kunrinjo-shirotae. (Also sometimes spelled Kurinjo-shirotae). Flowers semi-double, white, *fragrant*.

Senriko. Flowers semi-double, very large, pale pink passing to white. *Fragrant*. Wilson's comment is "one of the most beautiful of its class".

Suragadai-nioi. Flowers semi-double, pink fading to nearly white, pendulous on long slender pedicles. Late flowering form. *Fragrant*.

Shirotae. (This name is sometimes spelled Sirotae, and it is also at times designated as Mount Fuji). Flowers double or semi-double, large, pure white. *Fragrant*. Wilson's comment is that "this is the *finest of all* the double flowering white cherries".

Miyako. Flowers double, white flushed pink. *Fragrant*. Wilson's comment is that "it is *one of the best* of the late flowering forms".

Yaye-oshima (or Yae-zakura). Flowers double, white, *fragrant*.

FLOWERS PREDOMINANTLY PINK.

Banriko. Flowers single, large, pale washy pink. Some Japanese catalogues list it as being *very* fragrant, but Wilson's comment is that it is "a form of very little horticultural value".

Hitoye-zakura. (This is the type form of *Prunus Lannesiana*). A cultivated form with single, pink flowers. *Fragrant*.

Kirigaya. Flowers single, pale pink, *fragrant*.

Ariake. Flowers single or semi-double, very large, pale pink, *fragrant*. Wilson's comment is that it is "a very striking form".

Amanogawa. (This name in Japanese means "Milky Way"). A tree of fastigate habit. Flowers semi-double, pale pink, *fra-*



PLATE V

A fragrant double flowering Japanese cherry at the Arnold Arboretum.

grant. Wilson's comment is that "it is a beautiful form, very distinct in its habit of growth".

Botan-zakura. (This name means "Paeony Cherry"). Flowers semi-double, pale pink, very large, *fragrant*. Wilson's comment is that it is "one of the very best forms".

Higurashi. Flowers double to semi-double, pale pink, *slightly* fragrant. Wilson's comment is that it is "a good form".

Ise-zakura. Flowers semi-double, rose pink, *fragrant*.

Yae-akebono. (This name is also spelled Yaye-akebono). Flowers semi-double, very large, soft pink, *fragrant*. Wilson's comment is that it is "a very beautiful form".

All of the foregoing varieties are classed as forms of *Prunus Lannesiana*.^{*} In addition, the following are also listed as being more or less fragrant.

Prunus Sieboldii, Takasago Cherry. (Other names for this cherry are Naden and Musha-zakura). Flowers are semi-double or occasionally single, delicate pink or sometimes nearly white. Wilson does not specifically refer to this species as having any fragrance, but Russell describes it as having fragrant flowers.

Prunus yedoensis, Yoshino Cherry. Flowers vary from white to pink and are *slightly* fragrant. Wilson's comment is that it is "one of the most floriferous and beautiful of the oriental flowering cherries".

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^{*}A group of Japanese cherries mostly garden forms which differ little from *P. serrulata* and are now generally included in that species.